

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the City
Council of the City of Rye held in City Hall on June 28,
2000 at 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

STEVEN OTIS, Mayor
CAROLYN CUNNINGHAM
ROBERTA DOWNING
ROBERT H. HUTCHINGS
ROSAMOND LARR
DOUGLAS MCKEAN
ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN
Councilmen

ABSENT:

NONE

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Otis invited the audience to join the council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Otis called the meeting to order; a quorum was present to conduct official city business.

The Mayor congratulated City Clerk Alice Conrad who will resign as City Clerk at the end of August to pursue a new career.

Ms. Conrad described her position as a new model for campus administrator with the Sisters of the Divine Compassion at the Good Counsel campus. She expressed her excitement with this new challenge. She will miss everyone in Rye and thanked everyone for all the good wishes.

The council expressed best wishes and congratulations to City Clerk Conrad. They council complimented her saying that she managed the Clerk's Office with grace, integrity, humor, and service.

3. Resolution authorizing the transfer of \$15,000 from Recreation Storage Room Project and \$10,000 from Damiano Center Improvement Project in the Building and Vehicle Internal Service Fund to the Capital Projects Fund Recreation Master Plan Project

Mayor Otis introduced Mr. Stephen Meyers, chairman of the Recreation Commission, who updated the council on steps taken since the presentation of the Recreation Master Plan at the April 5, 2000 council meeting.

This update included:

- reconvening the Recreation Master Plan Committee;
- establishing a preliminary timetable to identify tasks for a possible referendum targeted for March/April 2001;
- walking the scenic trailway with members of the Recreation Department, Recreation Commission, and council members; and
- retaining Mr. Patrick Cleary of Cleary Consulting to conceptualize the Master Plan.

The following steps will be taken:

- recruiting a summer intern, as suggested by Councilman Stampleman to do detailed mapping under the direction of Mr. Cleary;
- rescheduling a meeting in July with Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of the Rye City Schools, to discuss the redesign of the Midland, Milton, and Osborn schools' ballfields;
- soliciting comments from the YMCA, Nature Center, and County Legislator George Latimer on the scenic trailway concept;
- scheduling public forums regarding the trailway, Disbrow Park, and the revitalization of Damiano Center; and
- working with appropriate agencies to discuss environmental issues.

The council discussed Crozier Gedney's original study conducted 12 years ago; the change in demographics since that study; the need for more services; the possibility of negotiating a reduced fee for the new study since the same company did the original study; and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Crozier Gedney Architects, P.C. to provide preliminary design and cost estimates for a Damiano Center Feasibility Study for a fee not to exceed \$25,000.

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hutchings, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Rye hereby authorizes the City Comptroller to transfer \$15,000 from the Recreation Storage Room Project and \$10,000 from the Damiano Center Improvement Project in the Building and Vehicle Internal Service Fund to the Capital Projects Fund Recreation Master Plan Project.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Cunningham, Downing,
Hutchings, Larr, McKean, and Stampleman

NAYS:None

ABSENT: None

The resolution passed.

4. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into a Professional Service Contract with Crozier Gedney Architects, P.C. in the amount of \$25,000 to provide Preliminary Design and Cost Estimates for a Damiano Center Feasibility Study

Mr. Stephen Meyers, chair of Recreation Commission apprised the council that there is a sense of urgency to begin the feasibility study.

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Rye hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign an agreement with Crozier Gedney Architects, P.C. to prepare a Damiano Recreation Center Feasibility Study for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Cunningham, Downing,
Hutchings, Larr, McKean, and Stampleman

NAYS:None

ABSENT: None

The resolution passed.

5. Residents may be heard who have matters to discuss that do not appear on the agenda

Mrs. Michelle Henry, a Rye resident, informed the council that she submitted a letter to both the Rye Record and the Board of Education in opposition to the stadium lights at Nugent Field. The Rye Record advised Mrs. Henry that it would be difficult to publish an opposing opinion on the stadium lights at Nugent Field. The Rye City Board of Education ignored her letter.

Mrs. Alexandra Barnes, newspaper reporter, offered to print Mrs. Henry's letter in the Sound Shore Review.

Mayor Otis expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Henry for her comments.

6. Resolution declaring Truck 8, a 1990 Ford F800 Vac-Con, as surplus and authorizing the City Manager to arrange for its disposal by obtaining sealed bids

Councilwoman Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Downing, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Rye authorizes the City Manager to declare that Truck 8, a 1990 Ford F800 Sewer-Vacuum truck, be declared as surplus and arrange for its disposal by obtaining sealed bids.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Cunningham, Downing,
Hutchings, Larr, McKean, and Stampleman

NAYS:None

ABSENT: None

The resolution passed.

7. Other Business

A. Mayor Otis informed the council that New York State Governor Pataki approved a local option enabling law which amended Section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law to allow an extension of the period for filing applications for STAR (School Tax Relief) exemptions, providing that the municipal taxing authority has adopted a local law on or before June 30, 2000.

The proposed local law which is authorized by the amendment to the Real Property Tax Law would allow property owners who missed the previously established deadline of May 1, 1999 to become eligible for the STAR tax credit on the 2000/2001 school tax bill. Passage of a local law has been recommended by city staff.

Because circumstances beyond the control of the city prevent the standard practice of adopting local laws, a necessity exists for immediate passage, upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Rye City Council, pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 20(4).

Corporation Counsel Neale complimented City Assessor Whitty for her alerting him to the Governor's law that extended the deadline for the STAR program. He also expressed appreciation to Mrs. Dawn Nodarse, his secretary, for completing the necessary paper work on such short notice.

After discussing the three options for the deadline for filing STAR exemption applications, the council decided on July 31, 2000.

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr, to adopt the following local law:

**CITY OF RYE
LOCAL LAW NO. 5-2000**

**A local law amending
Section C22-1 of
Article 22 of the
Charter of the City of Rye
by adding Subsection D**

Be it enacted by the Council of the City of Rye as follows:

Section 1. Section C22-1 of Article 22 of the Rye City Charter is hereby amended as follows:

§ C22.1. City Assessor; powers and duties.

A. The City Assessor shall have all of the powers conferred and duties imposed on assessors of cities in this state under the Real Property Tax Law.

B. The taxable status of real property shall be determined annually as of the first day of May. All real property shall be assessed according to its condition and the ownership as of such date.

C. The assessment roll shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the said state law and be filed annually according to the following schedule:

(1) Filing of the tentative roll on June 1.

(2) Filing of the final assessment roll on or before September 15.

D. For all purposes related to the implementation of Real Property Tax Law § 425, providing a school tax relief exemption, the last date for filing STAR exemption applications for the 2000/2001 school year shall be the 31st day of July, 2000 and annually thereafter the last date for such applications shall be the 1st day of May preceding the next annual school tax levy._

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately on filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Cunningham, Downing,
Hutchings, Larr, McKean, and Stampleman

NAYS:None

ABSENT: None

The local law was adopted.

B. Councilman McKean made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Downing and unanimously carried, to approve a request from residents of Loewen/Barbara Courts for controlled traffic on Saturday, July 15, 2000 for a block party.

C. Councilman Hutchings referred to the June 28, 2000 article in the Sound Shore Review entitled "Brainchild of Rye Resident Could Make Roads Safer". Mr. Jack Zahringer's idea for the county to purchase speed monitoring trailers became a reality. Thanks to this resident, the County has instituted a program to lend local municipalities the Speed Monitoring Awareness Trailers (SMART) which check speeding in residential zones. Councilman Hutchings recommended that the City Manager place the city on the list to borrow the trailer.

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Larr and unanimously carried, to adjourn into executive session at 8:35 P.M. to discuss legal issues of the Nugent Field stadium lights and a personnel matter.

Councilwoman Downing made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hutchings and unanimously carried, to reconvene at 11:34 P.M.

Councilman Stampleman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hutchings, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Rye hereby agrees, pursuant to Section 8 (d), Relocation, of the City Manager's contract, to pay the costs due at closing on the City Manager's former residence in Rockville, Maryland, and that prior to April 15, 2001, in recognition that this payment is considered taxable income, shall provide a one time payment to cover the cost of taxes the employee will be required to pay.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mayor Otis, Councilmen Cunningham, Downing,
Hutchings, Larr, McKean, and Stampleman

NAYS:None

ABSENT: None

The resolution passed.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Cunningham made a motion, seconded by Councilman McKean and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice K. Conrad
City Clerk